

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. with Chairperson Jim Talkington, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner Thomas R Williams, and Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk.

Bob Johnson, Iola Register, Heather Bosler, Humboldt Union representative, and Larry Walden, citizen, was present to observe the meeting.

Jerry B. Hathaway, Allen County Attorney, stopped in to say "Hi" and his daughter graduated with her doctorate degree.

Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, reported all is running pretty smooth. Bob Johnson reported on a chuck hole. Discussion followed.

Bryan J. Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, joined the meeting. Commissioners discussed the proposed 2018 budget for sheriff office and jail department with him.

Larry Walden, appointee to the Area Agency on Aging, discussed the Area Agency on Aging 2018 budget request for \$10,000 which is an increase of \$8,000.

Alan Weber, Allen County Counselor, Carla Nemecek, South Wind Extension District Executive Director, Jerry Middendorf, Allen County Fair Board member, joined the meeting for bid openings for the Allen County Fairgrounds Sheep Barn roof. Bids were received from Beatty was \$37,756.85; Boren roofing for \$31,500.00; QSI for \$33,060.00; Decker Construction for \$27,998.00; Cleaver Farm and Home for \$21,900.00; Diebolt LLC for \$16,123. Alan, Carla and Jerry will review and compare bids for apples to apples. No action was taken at this time.

Beth Toland, Allen Community College Early Childhood Education Coordinator, reviewed the 3 requests involving 1. Use of courthouse lawn for checker board on the courtyard, 2. A personal commitment and 3. A commitment as Commissioners. The blocks cost \$6,375; they have raised money for freight. County could purchase and hold the blocks, or the county could donate the money to the endowment fund at the college. Commissioner Daniels moved to purchase a set of blocks for \$6,375 plus freight of approximately \$750 with the County keeping the ownership. Commissioner Williams seconded, motion passed 3-0-0.

Beth explained other projects she is working on.

Heather discussed using the upper level of the Humboldt Senior Center and converting it into overnight residence. Discussion followed on long term planning for tax monies. Commissioner Daniels discussed making a "Helping Hand" fund for current businesses. Commissioner Williams stated he would like to check more on Chuck Apt's suggestions. Chairman Talkington stated he would like to see some of the monies to help pay bonds on the hospital. Discussion followed on several topics. Commissioner Williams stated he would like to have a committee and plan for what to do with capital outlay monies.

Alan stated they reviewed and want to check with Diebolt before signing a contract. The Fair Board would like to carryover the difference for \$30,000 and \$16,000 to use towards other buildings in future years since they will cost more.

Commissioners discussed renting the top floor of the Humboldt Senior Center they would lose their current county tax exemption. Discussion followed.

Commissioners discussed the blocks they purchased with Ron Holman, Allen County House and Grounds. Sheriff Murphy stated his people could open the garage for people to get the blocks out.

Sid Flemings, City of Iola Administrator, and Shilo Eggers, CITF vice president discussed the downtown summits group for Downtown Enhancement Plan. They came up with flower pots to be along Madison Street through town. They would like to have 25 30" flower pots 28 gallons of water. They are reaching out to the Master Gardeners. They would like to put in Flower towers around the square. The south side of the square will have two flower pots and flower towers on the county side. They have monies to put towards the \$5,000 towards it, and other local organizations have committed \$500 and \$1,000 toward the total and estimated cost of \$7,000 is the total cost. They would like permission to put up the flower pots and would like to ask the county to give \$2,000 towards it. They would like to have the local flower shops bid on the flowers to keep local business involved and receiving the monies. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the county giving \$2,000 toward the project. Discussion followed on timing of the project. Chairman Talkington stated he would see \$1,400 towards the project. Commissioner Daniels seconded Commissioner Williams' motion. Motion passed 2-1-0.

Ron asked if the commission has heard any more on the Veteran's Garden project.

Larry asked about the commissioner's practice to wait a week or not, what make them choose to wait a week or not.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerks Vouchers -\$69,880.93
- b) Payroll Changes
- c) Clerks Journal Entries: #20-22
- d) Abatements: RE Value 80, \$15.46, Year 2012

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned until April 25, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the courthouse.

Jim Talkington, Chairperson

Thomas R. Williams, Commissioner

Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner